

**Montana Tech Natural Resources Building: Request for Additional Funding**

**Before the Long Range Planning Committee  
2007 State Legislature, February 5, 2007**

Revenue from Montana's abundant oil and gas resources fuels our State's growing economy. Tech's Petroleum Engineering Department

- Provides graduates needed for increasing production rates and extending our known reserves using advanced technology.
- Provides ideas, research, and practical innovation for improving recovery and economics of new and existing oil and gas reserves, and
- Is a partner in the economic development of Montana.

Tech's Petroleum Engineering Department is fully accredited and is recognized around the globe for its high quality graduates. We are one of the five largest suppliers of petroleum engineers in the USA. We have grown from 150 students to 210 students in the past 2 years since we last met. After graduating 13 students last December, our numbers now stand at 108 Montanans, 29 out-of-staters, 36 Canadian, and 24 other foreigners. Montanans played a larger part in our growth in recent years than any other sector.

The Petroleum Department is poised for substantial growth over the next 5 years to supply engineers for the oil and gas industry, especially Montana. We expect the undergraduate enrollment to grow to 330 and the graduate program to 25 students. We are conducting research in areas that will add to Montana's resource inventory and will increase the recovery efficiency and productivity of existing oil and gas deposits.

We have outgrown our present facilities, which we share with a growing outreach program and a small part of the General Engineering Department. The Natural Resources Building is essential to continue our growth in student numbers and excellence. Modern classrooms and laboratories will enhance our curriculum and research capabilities.

The current Petroleum Building is structurally sound, but it is not suitable for enhancing our student's education and for future growth. It was built in 1950 and its heating and ventilation system is inefficient and needs replacing. Utility and electronic systems are inadequate for modern-day instructional delivery, laboratory experience, and research. Classrooms are overcrowded and not compatible with modern multi-media teaching systems. It is also out-of-compliance with Life Safety Codes, National Fire Protection Association codes, and the Americans with Disabilities Act.

The Petroleum Engineering Department will be part of the Montana oil and gas industry's bright future. A modern building, with efficient classrooms and modern laboratory facilities, is critical in delivering high-quality instruction and attracting high-quality students, experienced teachers and researchers, and the capital and grants for the research required to achieve our goals.

Thank you,

John G Evans  
Head Department of Petroleum Engineering  
Montana Tech